

2 June 2008

Mayor Joseph Curtatone  
Somerville City Hall  
93 Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02143

RE: Somerville bike lanes and sharrows

Dear Mayor Curtatone:

LivableStreets would like to express our sincere gratitude for the recent bike lane and sharrow installations, as well as a noticeable increase in bike racks throughout the city. We are excited and encouraged by your efforts, and we look forward to see what's ahead.

In case you are not familiar with us, LivableStreets Alliance is a non-profit organization that advocates for better streets for all users, with a focus on pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and people with disabilities. We work with citizens, government, and other advocacy organizations to improve streets in the Boston area, making them the quality public spaces they deserve to be.

LivableStreets is thrilled to see the recent bike lane and sharrow installations on Beacon Street, Joy Street, Willow Ave, and Broadway. Somerville's streets already carry thousands of bicyclists, and these new facilities will without a doubt improve the safety and comfort of those who currently do bike. They will also lower the barrier for people who are considering bicycling in Somerville, but have thus far been hesitant to do so. Based on our own observations, it appears that more people than ever are bicycling on Beacon Street, even before all the stencils have been completed!

As you are probably aware, the present time is the perfect time for bicycling. With gasoline now over \$4.00 per gallon, increasing traffic congestion in our cities, and an ongoing obesity crisis, bicycling is one option that is available to almost everyone to help them get around, get healthy, save money, and cut down on pollution and traffic congestion. Cities across the nation are realizing that they can do a lot to make bicycling an attractive option to its citizens, especially when it comes to improving the bicycling

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infrastructure. I have attached a May 16 USA Today article that you may find interesting. It talks about bicycling as an increasing trend and what some US cities are doing to encourage it. It's wonderful to see that Somerville is doing similar great things.

Once again, a sincere thank you is in order for your efforts to improve Somerville for bicycling. We look forward to a future of more bike lanes, sharrows, and bike parking, and of course even more bicyclists than ever! And please know that LivableStreets is happy to assist you, your staff, as well as the Bike Committee in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Phil Goff  
Board of Directors  
LivableStreets Alliance